

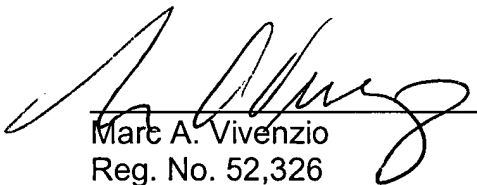
REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-28 to remove all multiple dependencies and indefinite phrases (e.g., "preferably") recognized therein. The indefinite phrases were converted to new dependent claims 29-47. In filing this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to application.

FEE STATEMENT

A fee of \$171.00 is submitted herewith. It is believed that no additional fees are due at the present time. However, in the event of any fee deficiency or overpayment, authorization is hereby granted to charge such deficiency or credit such overpayment to deposit account No. 12-2147.


Respectfully Submitted,
LORUSSO LOUD & KELLY LLP


Marc A. Vivenzio
Reg. No. 52,326

Dated: February 11, 2004
15 Rye Street 312
Pease International Tradeport
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: (603) 427-0070
Fax: (603) 427-5530

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this preliminary amendment and any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 11, 2004.



Marc A. Vivenzio